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Identical letters dated 15 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government I am transmitting to you the attached letter dated 14 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the barbaric crime committed by United States and British aircraft on 11 August 2000, with the support and assistance of the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes, in bombing civilian installations and residential districts in Muthanna governorate in the south of Iraq, killing 2 people, wounding 19 others and causing substantial material damage. The Minister holds the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for these hostile acts and affirms Iraq's well-established right to take the necessary measures to defend its territory and to demand compensation for these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 15 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 9 August 2000, I wish to inform you that, on 11 August 2000, United States and British aircraft committed a barbaric crime, following the series of earlier crimes against the innocent people of Iraq, in attacking a number of civilian installations and residential districts in Muthanna governorate in the south of Iraq which resulted in the death of 2 innocent citizens and injuries to 19 others, as well as causing substantial material damage. The details of this vile crime are given below.

At 2247 hours on the evening of 11 August 2000, 17 formations of United States and British aircraft flew 28 sorties from Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and by an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew areas in Basra, Dhi Qar, Qadisiyah, Najaf and Muthanna governorates and attacked a residential quarter in the Khashabah district in the town of Samawah, killing 2 innocent citizens and injuring 19 others. The warehouses of the General Company for Building Materials, the Traffic Department, the Catering Centre and a branch of the Grain Processing Company were also destroyed, in addition to six residential houses and two civilian motor cars. Damage was also caused to refrigeration and electrical power plant, and the water supply to the town of Samawah in Muthanna governorate was cut off.

This brings to 18,645 the total number of armed sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace by United States and British aircraft since the brutal aggression by the United States and the United Kingdom of 17 December 1998, which have resulted in 311 fatalities among civilians and 967 other casualties.

The Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom can no longer conceal their attitude towards Iraq and its Government and people, but persist in giving expression to their latent malice and spitting out their venom against innocent Iraqis, despising all humanitarian values and the principles and the Charter of the United Nations, and international law. In addition, the support given by the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes to these aircraft denotes their continuing hostility to Iraq aimed at the lives of innocent Iraqis and the destruction of their property. These two regimes are participating directly in the aggression against Iraq by supporting the air strikes by United States and British aircraft and by offering facilities to the aircraft which take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

This latest wicked aggression has thrown a revealing light on the persistence of the conspiratorial, hostile and malicious conduct of the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers and on their feverish attempts to undermine the constancy, the will and the heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people.

The continuing United States and British aggression against the steadfastness of Iraq has become a well-established policy of those two States to attain their political objectives as declared by the responsible officials of those two States. By the most elementary criteria of international practice, such aggression amounts to a glaring violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international

law and prevailing international custom, all of which confirm the rejection of the use or threat of force against the integrity or independence of any State.

The Government of Iraq, while holding the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully liable internationally for their hostile and provocative acts and for the resulting damage, reserves its full and well-established right, conferred by the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and international practice, to take the necessary measures to defend the sovereignty of Iraqi territory and the safety of its people and to demand compensation for the human casualties and material and moral damage inflicted on it as a result of these hostile acts in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq